

REGION 2

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



**Photo:** Cramer Hill Waterfront Park in Camden, New Jersey

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04** Note from Our Regional Administrator
- 05** Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- 06** Promoting Environmental Justice
- 07** Improving Air Quality
- 08** Ensuring Clean Water
- 10** Cleaning Up Superfund Sites
- 11** Revitalizing Brownfields Sites
- 12** Sustainably Managing Wastes and Chemicals
- 13** Celebrating Environmental Leaders and Awards

**Cover Photo Credit:** Michael Mannino; Ithaca, New York

**EPA Publication** #902F22001

# NOTE FROM OUR REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

I am honored to celebrate the first year of the Biden-Harris Administration by highlighting some of our Region's most recent projects and accomplishments. I only joined the EPA family in late November, but was immediately impressed with the work EPA Region 2 has already done to champion equitable access to a clean and healthy environment for all, from ensuring drinking water sources are safe and supporting communities as they tackle solid waste management, to cleaning up contaminated properties and enforcing health based air emission standards.

Amidst the ongoing global pandemic, Region 2 staff continued to support communities in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as our eight federally recognized Indian Nations, working to ensure that all residents have access to clean air, water, and soil free from toxins.

As Regional Administrator, I also could not be more proud of the work EPA is doing to ensure that all communities are prepared for climate change and resilient in the face of increased climate events, and I admire the talent and passion that Region 2 staff bring to work each day.

I am pleased to present these highlights from 2021 and look forward to working together with the entire Region 2 family in the coming years to strive towards environmental justice and equitable climate solutions for our region, especially for our most underserved communities.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LFG' followed by a flourish.

**Lisa F. Garcia**  
**Regional Administrator**

# BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

EPA is delivering a historic **\$60 billion** investment from the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) in safe and healthy water, pollution cleanup and community revitalization, and healthier school buses for children.

Funding provided through EPA's State Revolving Fund programs will create jobs while upgrading America's aging water infrastructure and addressing key challenges like lead in drinking water and per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. Increased water infrastructure funding will provide more than **\$168 million** in New Jersey, **\$22 million** in New York, **\$78 million** in Puerto Rico and more than **\$31 million** in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



**Lead service line replacement in  
Albany, New York**



**Unimatic Manufacturing  
Superfund site in Fairfield,  
New Jersey**

A **\$1 billion** investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is in place to initiate cleanup and clear the backlog of 49 previously unfunded Superfund sites and accelerate cleanup at dozens of other sites across the country including **7** in New Jersey, **3** in New York and **1** in Puerto Rico.

# ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Cleanup work on the Gowanus Canal Superfund site in Brooklyn, New York



In 2021, we continued to endeavor towards an environment free from hazards and equal access to decision-making for all people. We heard concerns directly from communities affected by pollution and worked to implement and enforce laws, regulations, and policies leading to healthy environments to live, learn, and work.



Region 2 welcomed Administrator Regan to New Jersey and New York to participate in [environmental justice roundtable discussions and tours](#) in Newark, New Jersey and Albany, New York with Congressman Paul Tonko, Congressman Frank Pallone, and Senator Cory Booker.



We continued our work to protect the community near the [Limetree Bay Refinery](#) in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. We took numerous enforcement actions, set up a [community hotline](#), and monitored the air near the Limetree Bay refinery for sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfide.

# IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

Region 2 continued our work to reduce air emissions and keep residents safe from toxic contaminants. We strived to deliver results for all communities through reviewing permits, ensuring vehicle emissions compliance, or monitoring for harmful radiation levels.

We held a successful open house and public information session in Spanish regarding health risks from Ethylene Oxide and proposed emissions reduction efforts at the [Edwards facility in Añasco, Puerto Rico](#).



The Region [advanced community mapping of radon in Puerto Rico](#) through an innovative student-run citizen science research project.

EPA worked closely with our government partners to ensure Clean Air Act compliance while [providing lasting clean air benefits as highlighted by the \\$2.1 billion channel deepening at the Port of New York and New Jersey](#).



# ENSURING CLEAN WATER

EPA worked closely with state, local, tribal and water sector partners to improve water quality in our region. Together, we made investments in communities across the region to improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, monitored water quality in our watersheds and wetlands, established limits for and enforced pollutant discharge, and protected habitats and estuaries, and coastal waters.



**EPA provided more than \$345.9 million in grants for New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to support communities with low-cost financing for various drinking water and clean water infrastructure projects through our State Revolving Loan Program in Fiscal Year 21.**

**We are also working to improve wastewater infrastructure at the Anguilla Wastewater Treatment Plant.**



**Region 2 provided over \$1 million in grant funding for Beach Water Quality Monitoring in New York, New Jersey, and the Caribbean.**

# ENSURING CLEAN WATER

The agency celebrated [water quality improvements in Long Island Sound](#) resulting from almost 50 million pounds of nitrogen kept out of the Sound, due to New York and Connecticut state-led programs.



We made strides towards [delisting the Rochester Embayment Area of Concern](#), as habitat for mink and bottom-dwelling aquatic plants and animals has improved.

Region 2 initiated a study to evaluate upstream sources of fecal pollution in the Raritan River in New Jersey and determine if the fecal contamination is from human sources.

The results of the study will be shared with regional, local and municipal partners to determine options to improve water quality.



# CLEANING UP SUPERFUND SITES



Cleanup work at the Sherwin Williams / Hilliards Creek Superfund site in southern New Jersey

The Region coordinated with federal, state, and local partners to modify fieldwork timelines and continue site cleanup at the nation's most contaminated sites amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While making progress on many emergency response and National Priorities List (NPL) sites across the region, we fully completed cleanup work at **2 sites**, deleted **1 site** from the NPL, and added or proposed **3 sites** for addition to the NPL.



We progressed with cleaning up mercury contamination at the VoToys site in Harrison, New Jersey.



Announced that EPA will take over and complete the design plans for the Seawall Sector of the Raritan Bay Slag Superfund site in Old Bridge, New Jersey.



Began the final phase of treating the contaminated soil and groundwater at the Diaz Chemical Corp. Superfund site in Holley, New York.



Added the Pioneer Metal Finishing, Inc. site in Franklinville, New Jersey to the National Priorities List.

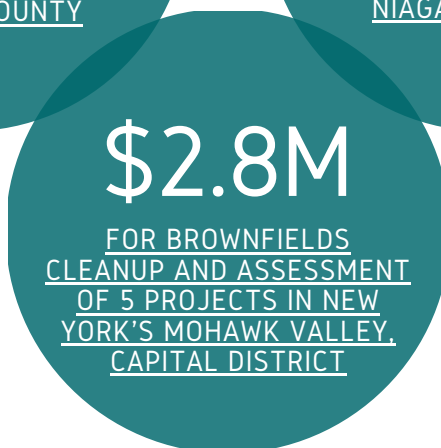
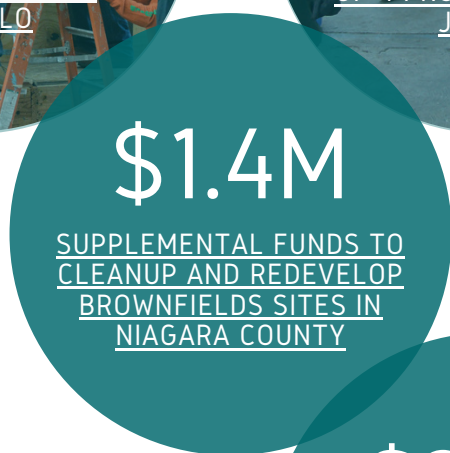


Finalized an interim cleanup plan for the upper nine miles of the Lower Passaic River Study Area of the Diamond Alkali Superfund site in New Jersey.

# REVITALIZING BROWNFIELDS SITES

A former abandoned and contaminated school redeveloped into a senior living facility in the Town of North Hempstead, New York

Region 2 creatively worked around the COVID-19 pandemic challenges to continue assessing, safely cleaning up, and sustainably reusing contaminated properties. As a result, we completed **50** Brownfield site assessments, **2** cleanups, and made **12** properties ready for reuse. The work done through the regional Brownfields program also leveraged **206** jobs opportunities.



# SUSTAINABLY MANAGING WASTE AND CHEMICALS

Addressing open dumping at a municipal landfill in Lajas, Puerto Rico

Region 2 continued our efforts to promote sustainable materials management and pollution prevention. Our regional enforcement program refused admission to over **150** import shipments of illegal pesticides and pesticide devices, stopping **1.7 million** pounds of unregistered/misbranded pesticides and pesticide devices. Additionally, we settled nine Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act enforcement cases resulting in nearly **6 million** pounds of pollutants reduced.



EPA worked with Federal and Puerto Rico Agencies to develop a guide to assist municipalities in integrating solid waste and disaster debris management into Hazard Mitigation Plans.


We provided free Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) training in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Trenton, New Jersey, as part of the Enhancing Lead-Safe Work Practices and Outreach Initiative to raise awareness about lead exposure and promote lead-safe work practices.



Region 2 hosted a virtual public meeting for state and local health departments to share information on mosquito control strategies, after an uptick in mosquito populations and mosquito-borne illness in New York state.

# CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS & AWARDS


EPA Region 2 celebrates environmental accomplishments from budding leaders throughout the region




2 Green Chemistry Challenge Award winners in Region 2



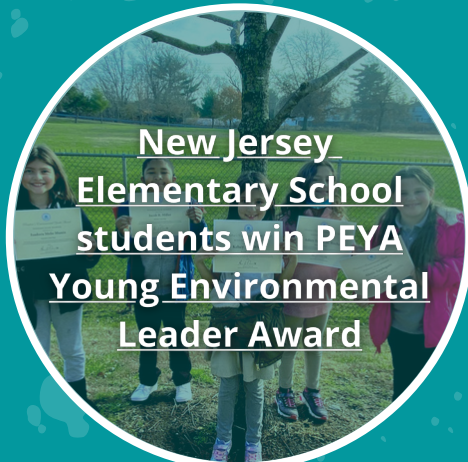
1,000 high schoolers from New Jersey participated in our Emerging Leaders in Science Symposium during Earth Week.




Griffiss Air Force Base named as one of the 2021 Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse Award Winners




New Jersey High School student wins PEYA Young Environmental Leader Award



New Jersey Elementary School students win PEYA Young Environmental Leader Award



8 ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year Award Winners in New Jersey



19 ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year Award Winners in New York



New York Ranks in Top 10 U.S. Cities with ENERGY STAR Certified Buildings

Learn more and stay connected with



<https://www.epa.gov/perspectives/year-accomplishments-epa>

